

Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council
Teleconference
July 10th, 2012
MINUTES

July 14th Agenda:

Welcome and Introduction

Follow up to IAC Farm Bill listening session –James McCuen

Brief overview of WATCAC face to face meeting – Roylene

TRA Treatment Maps and FY13 WATCAC Program Package details - Peter and Jeff

Tribal conservation districts: Their role with the Tribe and NRCS -Jackie

Puget Sound update - Rick

Tribal Treaty Rights at Risk update - Roylene

Closing Comments

August meeting canceled to get Tribal resource assessments completed.

Sept 11, 2012 next regularly scheduled meeting details to follow.

Participants (available by teleconference):

Colville Confederated Tribes – James McCuen & Kerry Wilson

Colville Reservation Conservation District – Jackie Richter

Kalispel – Matt Berger

Lummi – Alan Chapman

Makah tribe – Stephanie Martin

Quinault – Mike Staman

Samish – Christine Woodward

Snoqualmie – Cindy Spiry

Squaxin Island-Jim Peters

Yakama – Jonalee Squeochs, Stuart Crane

NRCS – Roylene Rides at the Door, Rebecca Stuart, Robin Slate, Peter Bautista, Jeff Harlow, Bonda Habets, John Kendig, Jeff Harlow, Dave Brower, Robert Jarrett, Rick Nobel

Meeting called to order: 9:45 a.m.

Roylene Rides at the Door (NRCS State Conservationist) - Gave welcoming remarks. She thanked everyone for their hard work at the face-to-face meeting at Worley, ID. For the first time ever Tribes will be able to compete for additional/leftover funding. She gave a brief update on the Farm bill, waiting for the House version to come out there is a 5% difference between the commodity payments. Establishing the budget acreage for the Tribal Resource Assessment (TRA), in the next month will help to defend the budget.

Bonda Habets (NRCS State resource Conservationist) - Riparian forest buffer (391) practice standard being reviewed. In August they will form a committee to review the standard to make sure it's consistent as there are many different interpretations on this standard. They would like to have a technical review to address inconsistencies and still retain flexibility to fit projects. Bonda is asking for one or two names from WATCAC to be a part of this standard Review committee. The first meeting will be Cle Elum within the next month. They are hoping to have the whole process/review completed by January or March. At the end of the process Bonda will send out an action plan. **If you are interested or you would like to nominate someone for this committee please call or email Rebecca Stuart or Robin slate with your nominations as soon as possible.**

Peter Bautista (NRCS, ASTC for Operations) – Peter said he was enthusiastically pleased with the meeting in Worley, ID. He reviewed the eleven resource concerns established by the Tribes, Program development for FY13, Tribal Resource assessment and treatment maps. See attachment **(TRA priority Treatment Area Guidance)**

Peter said the Tribal Resource Assessment will be a stand-alone assessment for the next three years. NRCS will need maps from the Tribes that outline treatment areas and acreage that will be targeted within those years.

Over the next month Dave Brower, State GIS specialist, will work with Rebecca and Robin to provide maps and land use acreage information. Both Tribal liaisons will meet with tribes by region to identify these areas. This information should be submitted to the NRCS Tribal Liaison no later than:

- **Friday, August 10, 2012** earlier submissions are welcomed and encouraged.

Dave Brower (NRCS state GIS specialist) - Dave discussed developing priority treatment areas for the 5 designated land uses. **(See attachment TRA priority Treatment Area Guidance)**

- ☐ 1) PRIORITY TREATMENT AREAS
- ☐ 2) ACREAGES
 - ☐ Example Priority Treatment Area and Acreage Development
 - ☐ Example of Acreage Development
- ☐ 3) TIMELINE • **Friday, August 10, 2012**

Dave will be providing each Tribe maps in a shape file. The Tribal liaisons (Rebecca and Robin) will send out the maps for approval within the next week. The NRCS Land use Dataset is not very detailed so when you see these maps please review accuracy on locations of pasture lands to develop accurate boundaries. If you have modifications simply modify the shape file or print out the map and draw on it and send it back to the liaisons. Discussion on inclusions such as quantifying streams and culverts, fish passage, data barriers in land use followed. Dave said they are only looking for estimates and Peter said to take into consideration the contributing source or watershed. In addition James McCuen asked if domain properties such as ceded lands and allotments were covered by this plan. Peter said only reservation lands and the Tribes set the boundaries. Alan Chapman asked if something was not included then what? Roylene said to provide a description and documentation of that area, but truly NRCS is looking to the Tribes for Guidance and direction. She said the TRA is a living document and this is just

the starting point but it can always be modified. Peter said NRCs is looking at having the TRA completed by the end of this fiscal year.

Jeff Harlow (NRCS ASTC for Programs) - (see attachment 1 LWG package worksheets.) Jeff gave a brief summary of the spread sheet. He discussed the tabs and explained that the resource numbers have not been sorted out yet. The Tribes still have an opportunity to remove some of the practices. Hold down's were discussed Jeff said the only way to control these is to put caps on them. He provided several examples such as bridges and the possibility of costs getting out of control.

Rick Nobel (NRCS West Area Conservationist) - Rick gave an update on the Pudget Sound Project. Funding was received late but they are going strong now. They received 2.7million in EQIP funding with an August 1st deadline. Projects for fish passage, conservation buffers, and waste storage facilities are considered. They reached out to potential partners and received about 60 applications with 29 selected based on funding and ranking criteria and site visits. Roylene noted that this was the first time NRCS used a screening tool.

James McCuen (IAC) - James said the farm Bill listening session went pretty well with good discussion. He also invited everyone to the Northwest Intertribal AG Council Conference. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are hosting it, August 14-15, 2012, at the Chief's Event Center, located in Fort Hall, Idaho. He said several key speakers will provide information on a variety of subjects including: global positioning system (GPS) in agriculture and on reservations; tribal participation in carbon markets; animal disease traceability on reservations; University of Idaho vaccine handling and safety; update on Farm Bill; USDA cattle revenue program; and other natural resources topics. There will be something for everybody.

Roylene Rides At The Door (NRCS State Conservationist) – Roylene discussed the formation of the Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council and representatives selection. Two from WA were selected, Terry Williams from the Tulalip Tribe, and Silvia Peasley from Colville. In addition, Roylene is one of the State Conservationists that were selected to participate on this council. Also NRCS is working with NOAA and EPA as lead entities designated by the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ), the oversight council for all environmental agencies in WA DC. These agencies were designated by CEQ as being the lead entities to address the concerns of the Tribes as identified in the Treaty Rights at Risk paper. So far there has been a 75 page matrix of authorities' drafted but little implementation. She is hoping to see more action from this group and more involvement from the other agencies. Currently, the 3 federal agencies are meeting regularly to work on Puget Sound salmon habitat and Tribal treaty rights as identified in the paper. Roylene thanked everyone for their hard work and participation. She asked that we all make a special effort to contact the Tribes not at the meeting and invite them to join us.

Meeting adjourned: 12:30p.m.

August meeting canceled to get Tribal resource assessments completed.

Next meeting: Teleconference, September 11th, 2012 at 9 a.m.

Action Items:

- ☐ **If you are interested or you would like to nominate someone for the 391 Riparian forest buffer practice standard review committee please call or email Rebecca Stuart or Robin Slate with your nominations as soon as possible.**
- ☐ **Submit priority treatment area maps and descriptions to Rebecca or Robin by Friday, August 10, 2012 earlier submissions are welcomed and encouraged.**